REMARKS

Drawings

The drawings are objected to for poor figure legends. Applicant hereby amends the figure legends by incorporating additional information for clarity and explanation.

Rejections Under 35 USC §112, 1st Paragraph

Claims 18 and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for lack of enablement. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 18 has been amended to recite a method of producing activated T cells stimulated by dendritic cells which are activated by exposure to hepsin or the fragment of SEQ ID NO. 28 or 148. The present specification has clearly demonstrated the induction of hepsin-specific cytotoxic T cells by dendritic cells activated by hepsin peptide SEQ ID NO. 28 or 148 (Example 17 and Figures 20-21). Hence, Applicant submits that the scope of amended claim 18 is commensurate with the scope of enablement provided in the specification.

The Examiner contends that "there is no correlation between SEQ ID NO:148 and cancer, nor has it been established in the art that the production of immune cells by mere exposure to a protein fragment would render an anti-cancer agent effective for use in the treatment of any disorder or as a preventive agent." The present invention, however, is not drawn to a method of treating cancer.

Claim 18 is drawn to a method of inducing hepsin-specific T cells via antigen presentation by activated dendritic cells. The method involves first activating dendritic cells to hepsin peptide SEQ ID NO. 28 or 148, followed by induction of T cell activation by these activated dendritic cells. In one embodiment, the activated dendritic cells are reintroduced into an individual from whom the dendritic cells are isolated (claim 22). Applicant submits that in view of the results in Example 17 and Figures 20-21, coupled with the well-known fact that dendritic cells are potent antigen presenting cells *in vitro* and *in vivo*, one of ordinary skill in the art would predict with reasonable expectation of success that such activated dendritic cells reintroduced *in vivo* would activate hepsin-specific T cells similar to that seen in *in vitro* experiments presented in the specification.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant submits that the method of claim 18 is fully enabled based on a fair reading of the disclosure presented in this application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 18 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 USC §112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 18 and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 18 is rejected for reciting "said activated dendritic cells" without sufficient antecedent bases. Applicant note that the phrase "said activated dendritic cells" in the second step of claim 18 follows the phrase "exposing dendritic cells to hepsin fragment, thereby producing activated dendritic cells" in the first step of claim 18. Hence, Applicant submits that there is antecedent base for "said activated dendritic cells".

Claims 20, 21 and 23 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 18 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed August 13, 2003. If any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney of record for immediate resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

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